United Nations ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2015/1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 February 2015

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy — Conference of European Statisticians

Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators

Tenth session
Geneva, 12 and 13 May 2015
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the tenth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 12 May 2015*,*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair.
3. Adoption of the reports of the previous sessions.
4. Implementation of the recommendations for the production and online sharing of the selected environmental indicators.

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* There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete an online registration form using the electronic procedure available from the website of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators (http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2014.11.environ.html) no later than two weeks prior to the meeting. On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website http://www.unece.org/meetings/UN_Map.pdf). In case of difficulty, please telephone the secretariat at +41 22 917 2364.

** Back to back with the tenth session of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators, a workshop on data quality and methodologies for selected water indicators will be held on 11 May 2015.

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5. Outcomes of the sixteenth session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment of relevance to indicator production and sharing.

6. Revision of the waste indicators from the Online Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators.

7. Other business.

II. Annotations

According to its 2015 terms of reference (ECE/EX/2015/L.2, annex II),[1] the Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators should assist national statistical agencies and institutions responsible for the production of national state-of-the-environment reports in countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (target countries). Its objectives are to further improve environmental statistics in the target countries by helping them to produce and share agreed indicators. This work should support the establishment of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in the pan-European region as the basis for regular reporting and assessments in accordance with international requirements, including obligations under the relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

The Joint Task Force is open to environmental experts and statisticians from all United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) countries. The European Environment Agency (EEA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Energy Agency, the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the United Nations Statistics Division and the World Health Organization European Centre for Environment and Health, as well as the secretariats of relevant MEAs and other institutions, are also invited to designate representatives to the Joint Task Force.

The meeting documentation, including country contributions, will be posted online on a web page dedicated to the meeting.[2]

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Joint Task Force will be invited to adopt the agenda for its tenth session as contained in the present document.

2. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair

The Joint Task Force is expected to elect its Chair and Vice-Chair for its current 2015 mandate.

The members of the Joint Task Force are invited to start consultations on possible candidates prior to the meeting.

[1] At the time of writing the new terms have not yet been adopted by the Executive Committee. They are expected to be adopted at the Executive Committee's seventy-sixth meeting, in March 2015. The previous terms of reference of the Working Group (ECE/CEP/2012/6, annex) set out the Working Group's mandate for the period 2012–2014.

[2] See http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2015.05.environ.html#/.

3. Adoption of the reports of the previous sessions

The Joint Task Force will be invited to adopt the reports of its eighth and ninth sessions, contained, respectively, in documents ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2014/2 and ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2014/6, provided that the Russian versions of the reports are made available in time.

4. Implementation of the recommendations for the production and online sharing of the selected environmental indicators

The Joint Task Force agreed at its eighth session (Geneva, 14–15 May 2014) on 14 recommendations for the production and sharing of the initial eight selected indicators[3] from the Online Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators (Indicator Guidelines).[4] These recommendations set the way forward, with clear actions to be taken to strengthen the production and sharing of these indicators. For a number of target countries further progress towards completion of the recommended actions is to be reported at the current session.

The Joint Task Force further agreed at its ninth session (Geneva, 4–5 November 2014) to extend the set of eight initial indicators by six additional indicators from the Indicator Guidelines: renewable freshwater resources (C1); freshwater abstraction (C2); total water use (C3); threatened and protected species (D4); fertilizer consumption (F2); and passenger transport demand (H1). During 2015 the Joint Task Force should review the production and sharing of these indicators, together with the initial eight. The implementation of the 14 production and sharing recommendations mentioned above should be applied in this review, as far as relevant, to all 14 selected indicators (i.e., also to the six additional indicators).

At the tenth session, the Joint Task Force will review the implementation of the recommendations and, hence, the progress achieved by the target countries in the production and sharing of the 14 selected indicators. The Joint Task Force may wish to provide further recommendations to the target countries in this regard, as necessary.

The review will be supported by an analytical paper (ECE/CEP-CES/GE.1/2015/3) to be prepared by the secretariat presenting the status of production and sharing of the 14 indicators in each of the target countries. The paper will be based on the information available on countries' national websites and will build upon information provided in papers prepared for the previous sessions.

In addition, in the context of indicator sharing, and a request made at the ninth session, the secretariat will present examples on how to ensure easy access to the indicators published, including solutions such as those provided within the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) framework.

[3] I.e., emission of pollutants into the atmospheric air (A1); ambient air quality in urban areas (A2); consumption of ozone-depleting substances (A3); greenhouse gas emissions (B3); biochemical oxygen demand and concentration of ammonium in rivers (C10); nutrients in freshwater (C11); protected areas (D1); and waste generation (I1).

[4] The Indicator Guidelines are available in the form of an online database from http://www.unece.org/env/indicators.html.

5. Outcomes of the sixteenth session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment of relevance to indicator production and sharing

The Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment at its sixteenth session (Istanbul, 16–17 April 2015), is expected to agree, at least partially, on the data flows for constituting the pan-European SEIS and on milestones for their implementation until 2020.

Further to such a decision by the Working Group, the Joint Task Force will be expected to assess whether the set of 14 selected indicators should be further extended by other indicators from the Indicator Guidelines already in 2015. The secretariat will facilitate the provision of the information in this regard, including mapping of the data flows with the indicators from the Indicator Guidelines.

In addition, the Joint Task Force may wish to consider the conclusions of the workshop on SEIS and Green Growth (Paris, 10–11 March 2015). This workshop will discuss the ECE environmental indicators vis-à-vis the green growth indicators and make suggestions on whether components of green growth measurements that are not yet covered under the ECE environmental indicators could be elaborated and, if so, how.

EEA and the European Commission, building on past and ongoing efforts to support the target countries in the gradual implementation of SEIS — e.g., through the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument-SEIS project for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine or the Forest and Biodiversity Governance Including Environmental Monitoring (FLERMONECA) project for Central Asian countries — will take stock of the projects supported by the European Union and inform the Task Force about possible cooperation opportunities, among others, aimed at supporting the production and sharing of the selected environmental indicators in 2015 and beyond.

6. Revision of the waste indicators from the Online Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators

The secretariat made a proposal at the ninth session to separate the indicator "final waste disposal" (I4) into two distinct indicators — "management of municipal waste" (I3); and "management of non-hazardous manufacturing waste" (I4) — both including exports and imports of the respective wastes. Owing to time constraints, the discussion on this proposal was moved to the tenth session.

The Joint Task Force will be expected to discuss and decide upon the secretariat's proposal regarding the waste indicator.

7. Other business

The secretariat will provide information about the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), and in particular, how the system relates to the activities of the Joint Task Force and regional activities and upcoming events on SEEA, including the Joint ECE/Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Seminar on SEEA implementation to be held in October 2015.

III. Organization of work

Date	*Item(s) of the agenda*
Tuesday, 12 May 2015	
9:30–9:40 a.m.	1
9:40–10 a.m.	2
10–10:15 a.m.	3
10:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	4
2:30–5:30 p.m.	4 (continuation)
Wednesday, 13 May 2014	
9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	4 (continuation)
2:30–4 p.m.	5
4–5 p.m.	6
5–5:30 p.m.	7